

8-03.4 Speed Limit Signs and Markings

A. Legal Requirements.

For the speed limit to be effective, applicable Vehicle Code sections require that prima facie speed limits established by the Department of Transportation or a local authority shall be posted with appropriate signs for the speed limit to be effective.

B. Restricted Speed Limit Signs. Speed limit signs shall be placed at the beginning of all restricted speed zones. Where speed zones are longer than 1.6 km, intermediate signs may be placed at approximate 1.6 km intervals. For three or more lanes in each direction, dual installation may be used.

C. “End ___ Speed Limit” (R3), or “Speed Limit ___” (R2) signs as appropriate shall be placed at the end of all restricted speed zones.

Freeways with 65 miles per hour (104km/h) and those segments where a speed limit of 70 miles per hour (112 km/h) has been approved by the Department of Transportation, with approval by the California Highway Patrol, shall be posted as follows:

- At the segment entrance, “*Speed Limit 70/65 MPH*” signs (R2) shall be installed right of traffic off of the right shoulder.
- R2 (70)/(65) signs shall also be installed off of the right shoulder only, throughout the segment, at a maximum of 40 km intervals. The 40 km interval may be modified to include locations following entrance ramps ~~from significant traffic generators~~.
- “*Autos with Trailers, Trucks 55 Maximum*” signs (R6-1) shall be installed approximately 230 m following each R2 (60, 65 or 70) sign, both at the beginning and throughout each 60 (96), 65 (104) or 70 (112) MPH (km/h) segment.

- “*Slower Traffic Keep Right*” signs (R56) may be installed at locations where there is a tendency of the motorists to drive in the left-hand lane(s) below the normal speed of traffic. Signs shall be placed in protected locations.

- At the end of the 70/65 MPH segment, “SPEED LIMIT ___ MPH” signs (R2) shall be installed off of the right shoulder.

Freeway segments where a 55 Miles Per hour speed limit has been approved by the Department of Transportation with the approval of the California Highway Patrol shall be posted as follows:

The beginning of the segment shall be posted with a R2(55) sign installed on the right shoulder and left shoulder where the median is of sufficient width to permit sign maintenance without lane closures. Subsequent signs should then be posted on the right shoulder, on approximate 4.8 km intervals, with no more than 3 interchanges between signs. At the end of the segment, a R2 sign with the appropriate number for the next speed limit should be posted on the right shoulder.

Conventional highways with 55 mile per hour (88 km/h) speed limits should be posted as follows: The beginning of the segment shall be posted with a R2(55) sign installed on the right shoulder. Subsequent signs should then be posted on approximate 8 to 16 km intervals and immediately after locations where significant volumes of traffic enter the segment. At the end of the segment, a R2 sign with the appropriate number for the next speed limit should be posted on the right shoulder.

Conventional highways with 65 mile per hour (104 km/h) speed limits should be posted as follows: The beginning of the

segment should be posted with a R2(65) sign installed on the right shoulder. Subsequent signs should then be posted at 8 to 16 km intervals and after locations where significant volumes of traffic enter the segment. At the end of the segment, a R2 sign with the appropriate number for the next speed limit should be posted on the right shoulder.

D. *Speed Limit Markings.* Pavement markings with appropriate figures may be used to supplement speed limit signs.

E. *State-line Signs.* R2 and R6-1 signs giving maximum statewide speed limits for various types of vehicles shall be installed on all State highways near the points of entrance into California. These signs should be placed in a location to be most effectively viewed by the approaching motorists.

Other Traffic Regulations 8-04

8-04.1 Through Highways

Sections 21352 and 21355 of the Vehicle Code provide for the installation of STOP signs either at or near the entrance to a State highway, except at signalized intersections, or at any location so as to control traffic within an intersection. When STOP signs have been erected at all entrances, a highway shall constitute a through highway.

Authority to place stop signs facing State highway traffic is delegated to the District Directors.

Section 21354 of the Code authorizes local authorities to establish through highways and install STOP signs in a like manner, but Section 21353 provides that no local authority may erect or maintain any STOP sign or other device requiring a stop, on any State highway, except by permission of the Department of Transportation. The Department will grant such permission only when an investigation indicates that the STOP sign will benefit traffic.

Authority to grant such permission is delegated to the District Directors.

8-04.2 One-Way Streets

Section 21657 of the Vehicle Code authorizes authorities in charge of any highway to designate, by ordinance or resolution, streets or highways for

one-way traffic. No such ordinance or resolution is effective with respect to any State highway without the prior approval in writing of the Department. If, by local ordinance, a State highway through a city has been made one of a pair of one-way streets, the Commission may adopt the additional street into the State Highway System. This is done under Section 111.5 of the Streets and Highways Code.

8-04.3 Turning Movements

Sections 21451 and 21454 of the Vehicle Code provide that vehicular traffic may make a semi-circular or U-turn on a green signal or green arrow except where such turn is prohibited by signs.

Section 22113 of the Vehicle Code authorizes local authorities, by ordinance, to prohibit the making of any turning movements by any vehicle at any intersection or between any designated intersections. No such ordinance shall be effective with respect to a State highway until approved by the Department of Transportation.

Section 21352 authorizes the Department to restrict turning movements on State highways.

A thorough investigation is necessary to determine whether or not the prohibited movements can be satisfactorily made at other locations without undue circuitry of travel.